

**REMARKS**

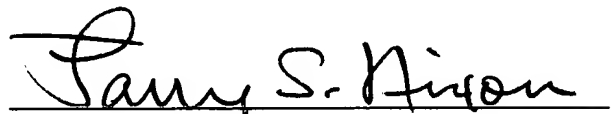
The above amendment is for the purpose of placing the Abstract, specification and claims in more traditional US format while simultaneously effecting certain claim amendments and conforming the introductory summary of the invention section specification to the form of the amended claims.

In addition, a copy of the PCT International Search Report is attached together with a copy of each reference cited therein and a Form PTO-1449 for the Examiner's convenience. Official consideration, citation and return of a fully initialled copy of the Form PTO-1449 is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

**NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.**

By:



Larry S. Nixon  
Reg No. 25,640

LSN:vc  
1100 North Glebe Road, 8th Floor  
Arlington, VA 22201-4714  
Telephone: (703) 816-4000  
Facsimile: (703) 816-4100